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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNDER SECRETARY
JUN 10 1952
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: June 6, 1952

SUBJECT: Manganese and Chrome from the Union of South Africa.

PARTICIPANTS:
Mr. Bruce - U
Mr. Peterson - BNA
Mr. Bramble - MMS
Ambassador Jooste, South African Embassy
Mr. Horrocks, South African Embassy

COPIES TO:
U - Mr. Bruce
BNA - Mr. Peterson
BNA - Mrs. Thoreson
OMP - Mr. Evans
MMS - Mr. Skavang
ED - Mr. Gorlitz
E - Mrs. Rado
E - Mrs. Morgan

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Mr. Bruce began by referring to the discussion that Ambassador Gallman had on June 5th with Prime Minister Malan of the Union of South Africa. He pointed out the seriousness with which the United States viewed its manganese and chrome position. He said the United States would have liked to import 750,000 tons of manganese and 500,000 tons of chrome from South Africa this year. He recognized that this goal was probably not realizable but that we had a real need for 500,000 tons of manganese and 300,000 tons of chrome. He understood there was a question of conservation in the minds of the Union Government, but pointed out that the United States was asking these amounts for the short term and could develop other supplies by perhaps 1955. Mr. Bruce did not attempt to go deeply into the situation but requested that Ambassador Jooste report to his Government the concern with which we viewed this matter and our hope that a mutually satisfactory solution to the problem presented by Ambassador Gallman could be arrived it.

Ambassador Jooste replied that the 750,000 tons of manganese and 500,000 tons of chrome were clearly impossible. He pointed out the difficulties in transportation in the Union of South Africa, and explained that they were chiefly due to the fact that the internal economy had been growing more rapidly than improvements on the railway system. He said he did not believe that even the higher figures we were asking for were beyond the productive capacity of South Africa but that it would be most difficult to ship them. On the question of conservation, he said that the overall reserves of South Africa were probably very extensive. The Union, however,

intends

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intends to restrict the export of the best grades of manganese because they hope to develop a ferromanganese industry. He undertook to convey to his Government views expressed by the Under Secretary.

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